demonstrate integrity. Therefore, before the price bids are called, it has been decided that bidders must satisfy the criteria, as replied at (b) and (c) above. Accordingly, the credentials of the bidders are being examined on these grounds.

News item, "Strategic Sale should be Avoided, Says SCOPE Chairman"

7. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Strategic sale should be avoided says SCOPE Chairman" published in the BUSINESS TIMES dated the 5th May, 2001 and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is one view and there are many other, including contrary views, in this regard. Government keeps in view such observations at the time of decision regarding route for disinvestment to be followed in case of each Public Sector Undertaking.

Criteria for identifying PSUs for disinvestment

8. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for identifying PSUs for disinvestment by Government;

(b) the top ten loss making PSUs as on today;

(c) the steps being taken to disinvest these loss making units;

(d) whether Government propose to apply VRS in these units; and

(e) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment is